

Water Quality – Related Public Outreach Events In 2008

The following is a list of 35 Water Quality Related Outreach Events in which approximately 25 Department of Environmental Quality employees from the Central and Regional Offices participated in during calendar year 2008.

1. **Coliscan Easygel Training:** WQMA staff led multiple Coliscan Easygel training sessions with various groups around Virginia. Trainings introduced new groups to monitor for E. coli bacteria and to retrain/evaluate groups that are currently doing Coliscan monitoring. Below is a list of events, their location, and name of monitoring group.
 - a. **January 17, Poquoson Citizens for the Environment- Poquoson, Virginia:** A new group established to monitor White House Cove and Lyons Creek.
 - b. **March 25 and November 18, George Mason High School- Falls Church, Virginia:** Train environmental science students to monitor Falls Church area streams.
 - c. **March 25, Arlington County Four Mile Run Monitors - Arlington, Virginia:** Event was to review methods and results collected during the past two years in the watershed.
 - d. **September 6, Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront- Chesterfield, Virginia:** Training of an established volunteer group that is beginning Coliscan monitoring efforts.
 - e. **September 9, Randolph Macon College - Ashland, Virginia:** Train new students on how to use Coliscan and evaluate an updated monitoring plan for Mechumps Creek, a bacteria impaired stream monitored by the college during the past three years.
 - f. **November 7, Cubitt Creek Monitors - Northumberland, Virginia:** Initial training of a new group who will begin monitoring Cubitt Creek in 2009.
2. **World Water Monitoring Day-** WQMA and regional staff involved with World Water Monitoring Day events held from September 18 to October 18. DEQ with the help of the Virginia Water Monitoring Council and the United States Geological Survey distributed 335 WWMD kits. In addition DEQ participated in the following WWMD events:
 - a. **September 18:** Kickoff event in Washington DC
 - b. **September 19:** Event with Auburn High School in Montgomery County
 - c. **September 27:** Stream cleanup and event in Winchester, Virginia
 - d. **October 4:** Stream cleanup and event at Wasena Park in Roanoke, Virginia
 - e. **October 18:** Event at Charlottesville
3. **January 10, Meeting with National Committee for the New River and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:** A WQMA representative held two meetings during this day. The first was to meet with the board of directors for the National Committee for the New River, a new citizen monitoring organization active in Virginia. The second meeting was with officials from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Both meetings were to give an overview of Virginia's citizen monitoring program and benefits of volunteer monitoring.
4. **January 31, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Recertification Event:** Annual recertification of Alliance volunteers occurred at Chioppokes State Park as was attended by WQMA staff whom assisted training efforts by overseeing training at two stations.
5. **March 28, Training of Dividing Creek Association Volunteers:** WQMA staff along with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay staff, provided initial training of monitoring equipment donated to the Dividing Creek Association by the Alliance. The event also allowed for the review and comment on proposed sampling sites and a general monitoring plan for the Dividing Creek watershed.

- 6. April 3, Meeting with Riverine Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists:** A WQMA representative met with Riverine Chapter members to propose that volunteer monitoring as a way to earn credit for the Virginia Master Naturalists Program. This meeting resulted in the chapter applying for and receiving a Citizen Monitoring Grant award for 2009 to monitor Upham Brook in Richmond. The group is looking to achieve Level II or III status by the end of 2009.
- 7. April 6, Recertification Event with Historic Green Springs Inc.:** A WQMA representative met with volunteers of the Historic Green Springs Inc. to review sampling procedures to maintain and improve on the organizations Level II/III status. The session addressed several deficiencies with their dissolved oxygen sampling and reinforced Level III status for other parameters.
- 8. April 10, Timberlake Homeowners Association Recertification:** WQMA staff met with the Timberlake volunteers to review testing methods. This Level III organization has gone under some internal reorganization and the meeting was to train new volunteers on how to use the sampling equipment.
- 9. April 11-12, Citizen Volunteer College Course:** WQMA staff led a one-credit college course on citizen monitoring in Abingdon, Virginia. This two-day class covered basic ambient and bacteria monitoring methods along with a tour a local wastewater facility. Five people attended this course.
- 10. April 19, Lake Anna Civic Association Recertification:** The WQMA QA Officer participated at the annual recertification event for the Lake Anna Civic Association. The event allowed DEQ to confirm Level III accuracy of field equipment and sampling methods.
- 11. April 26, Earth Day Science Fair:** WQMA and other DEQ program staff participated in the Earth Day Science Fair event held at the Richmond Science Museum. The event had over 200 participants.
- 12. May 10, Initial Training of New River Monitors:** A WQMA representative assisted an initial training event in Radford, Virginia as part of the National Committee for the New River volunteer monitoring program. From this training and review of protocols, the group now collects Level III dissolved oxygen and temperature data as well as Level II for pH and E. coli.
- 13. May 16, Meeting with York County Water Alliance:** A WQMA representative met with a newly formed group active in York County to introduce various types of volunteer monitoring equipment. From this meeting, the group is collecting E. coli (Coliscan Easygel), Secchi depth, temperature, and salinity data. The group is currently at Level I status.
- 14. June 13-14, Citizen Volunteer College Course:** A WQMA representative led a one-credit college course on citizen monitoring in Abingdon Virginia. This two-day class covered basic ambient and bacteria monitoring methods along with a tour of the Wolf Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility. Six people were in attendance.
- 15. June 24, Rain Barrel Workshop:** WQMA staff assisted with a rain barrel workshop sponsored by Clean Virginia Waterways and the Virginia Water Monitoring Council. Class had 25+ participants.
- 16. July 20, Walk in the Park:** DEQ staff demonstrated the Enviroscape to 50 children at Forest Hill Park in Richmond, Virginia.

- 17. July 24, Meeting with Hampton Rhodes Planning District Commission:** Planning district representatives reviewed a presentation given by DEQ staff outlining the benefits of volunteer monitoring to help address numerous bacteria related TMDL's in the area.
- 18. July 30, Summer Science Institute Seminar:** The WQMA Data Liaison conducted a training class in Louisa County for science teachers across Virginia covering water quality using the World Water Monitoring Day kits for use in classroom.
- 19. August 6, Rain Barrel Workshop:** WQMA and PRO staff assisted in a rain barrel workshop sponsored by Clean Virginia Waterways and the Virginia Water Monitoring Council. Class had 35+ participants.
- 20. August 9, Virginia Citizens for Water Quality Summit:** WQMA and other regional office staff participated in the Virginia Citizens for Water Quality summer summit which had over 120 attendees. WQMA staff led an informational session on using Coliscan to a class of 30 attendees.
- 21. September 5, Meeting with Northumberland Volunteers:** The WQMA Data Liaison met with citizens living near Cubbitt Creek interested in volunteer monitoring. Meeting provided a general overview on volunteer monitoring and various methods available to citizens. This was followed up on November 7 with a training session that focused on bacteria and turbidity sampling.
- 22. September 12, Kempsville Magnet School Science Fair:** DEQ WQMA staff gave a presentation involved the Enviroscope and Monitoring Equipment. Students learned about various sources of pollution and how they affect dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity and temperature in the water.
- 23. September 17, Environmental Education Conference:** The WQMA Data Liaison led a class on how volunteer water quality monitoring can work within a classroom setting. The class had 10 participants consisting mainly of community or classroom educators.
- 24. September 27 to October 5, Virginia State Fair:** WQMA and other DEQ program staff participated at the Virginia State Fair held in Richmond. At the fair, DEQ staffed a booth providing information about environmental education and other programs offered in the air, water, and waste media.
- 25. December 4, Presentation at the Maryland Water Monitoring Council:** The WQMA Data Liaison led a session discussing the non-agency monitoring database operated by DEQ that has been in use for the past two years to store and retrieve citizen and other non-agency water quality monitoring data.